



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013  
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax [santamonica bay.org](http://santamonica bay.org)

10/31/2012

Ephraim Leon-Guerrero  
U.S. EPA, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mr. Leon-Guerrero:

Attached is the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's semi- annual progress report for the time period April 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012. The Report addresses activities funded under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Agreement with U.S. EPA and match funds obtained from other sources including the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Coastal Conservancy, and among others.

In addition to the semi- annual progress report, the following deliverables are being provided on a media disk (CD):

WP Action/ Task	Deliverable
A	Prop 12, 50, and 84 semi-annual reports
H	BayWire
L	Governing Board, Executive Committee, Foundation Board of Directors, TAC Agenda Packages

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce  
Executive Director

*our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values*



---

## **Task A – Oversee Prop 12, 50, 84 bond-funded grants**

### ***Summary:***

#### **Prop 50**

Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project - Construction began in June 2012. Major grading complete, with additional planting and amenities to be installed through December. Arroyo Sequit Restoration - Grant agreements executed. GoWild Native Landscaping at Schools completed.

#### **Prop12**

Rindge Dam Removal Study - Technical Advisory Committee and ACoE continued to meet. Continued to study feasibility of using some of the material behind dam to create reefs, and notching dam to allow some natural transport. Temporary and permanent storage sites for additional materials have been located. Worked with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to put forward a proposal for Abalone Cove beach bluff restoration. The project proposal was reviewed and endorsed by the TAC and the Executive Committee.

#### **Prop 84**

Processed time extension and deviation for City of Torrance Stormwater Basin project to accommodate design changes. Assisted city of Santa Monica to develop a monitoring program for the in-line storm drain treatment and infiltration project based on the new TAC monitoring program guideline. The monitoring program was reviewed and approved by the TAC. Met with County of L.A. to discuss funding for Oxford Basin enhancement project. The project proposal was reviewed and endorsed by the TAC and the Executive Committee.

### ***Deliverables:***

Semi-annual progress reports

### ***Next steps:***

Submit new project proposal for Governing Board approval. Monitor progress of all on-going projects.

### ***Status:***

On-going

---

## **Task B – Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed**

### ***Summary:***

Continued discussions on upcoming MS4 permit with staff of the LAWQCB and attended additional stakeholder workshops. Reviewed stakeholders' comments on the draft MS4 permit and prepared SMBRC's comments for the upcoming MS4 hearing accordingly.

### ***Deliverables:***

N/A

### ***Next Steps:***

Continue to participate in the stakeholder process and comment on MS4 permit development. Carry out the TMDL implementation progress assessment project.

### ***Status:***

On-going

---

## **Task C – Facilitate comprehensive watershed management and restoration, and restoration of priority wetlands**

### ***Summary:***

#### **C.1 Participation in LA IRWMP**

**IRWMP** – Continue to attend local IRWMP meetings to monitor bond funding through the IRWMP process as well as monitor the progress in the IRWMP plan update project funded with the DWR grant award. Oversaw completion of the Open Space for Habitat and Recreation section of the IRWMP plan update.

#### **C.2 Facilitation of Restoration Planning**

**Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning/CEQA-NEPA** – Coordinated and conducted a public scoping meeting for the EIR/S on August 16, 2012 with attendance from over 70 stakeholders and members of the public. Continued to facilitate discussions with the Army Corps regarding EIS, 404, and 408 permit and application requirements, as well as the 214 funding mechanism to expedite Army Corps review and coordination. Coordinated permitting for geotechnical field exploration and preparation of preliminary geotechnical recommendation and preliminary design reports. Coordinated geotechnical field exploration field teams including Native American monitors, State Parks archeologists, and biological monitors. Circulated and presented levee alternatives for West Area B to the PMT for discussion and comment. Participated in multiple discussions with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to discuss restoration options to be addressed in the Adaptive Management Plan as follow-up to previous SAC meeting. Held meetings or discussions with interested members of the public to provide information about the restoration planning process.

**Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program** –Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program: The second year Baseline Report (2010-2011) was written, edited, finalized, and distributed electronically during this reporting period. It was released in June, 2012 (215pp) on [www.ballonarestoration.org](http://www.ballonarestoration.org). The third year of data collection and fieldwork at the wetlands was completed in September. Surveys completed over the last 6 months included: invertebrate (flying, terrestrial, and benthic), vegetation (salt marsh, brackish, and freshwater habitats and submerged vegetation), avifauna, large mammal, water quality, carbon sequestration, vertebrate mortality, and California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) surveys.

The biological monitoring team continues to provide substantial support to the restoration process, Project Management Team, technical team, the Scientific Advisory Committee, and additional team members. Biological monitoring services were provided to the GeoTech team in the field in biologically sensitive areas. Additional assistance was provided for ESA PWA conducting micro-topographic elevation surveys for the EIR studies.

Continued the site-specific Level 3 coordinated monitoring program for Southern California estuarine wetlands funded through EPA Wetlands Program Development Grant.

**Malibu Lagoon Restoration** –Restoration of the Lagoon began on June 5, 2012. Biological monitors and biologists conducted surveys, relocated animals, and monitored heavy equipment throughout the process. Restoration continued throughout the summer and is projected for completion on schedule.

#### C.3 Facilitation of Stream Restoration

**Stone Creek Restoration** - Continued monthly community restoration program (weeding and planting) at University Lab School and UCLA.

**Arroyo Sequit Creek** –Phase 1 & Phase 2 of this project include removing two Arizona crossings and one check dam to improve southern steelhead trout habitat. Part of the grant was awarded to SMBRF to supply engineering and design services, and part to State Parks to implement construction. An RFP for construction was released.

**Mudsnail Survey** – No survey during this reporting time period.

#### C.4 Facilitation of Watershed Management in Ballona Creek watershed

**Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study** –Continued to coordinate with Corps staff regarding assessments of cost share deliverables with the purpose of closing out the study.

**Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force** – Continued to facilitate & coordinate Task Force meetings bi-monthly. Activities included developing presentation agenda, chairing meeting, and responding to members' requests for updates on activities throughout the watershed.

## C.5 Implementation of LID Projects

**ARRA Ballona Creek Rain Gardens** – Construction was completed July 31, 2011.

Continued maintenance and removal of non-native vegetation. Coordinated 3 volunteer community restoration days.

## C. 6 Implementation of Climate Ready Estuary Program

Draft Report completed and edited, pending final formatting edits. Final Report will be posted on the SMBRF and BWER websites. ([www.santamonica-bay.org](http://www.santamonica-bay.org); [www.ballona-restoration.org](http://www.ballona-restoration.org)) and distributed electronically. Also, participated in the meetings of the Los Angeles Regional Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative to communicate the study to local stakeholders and facilitate exchange of climate change adaptation information in general.

### ***Deliverables:***

***N/A***

### ***Next Steps:***

Complete the Malibu Lagoon restoration. Continue to coordinate Ballona wetland restoration planning and Ballona wetlands monitoring. Continue to implement on-going LID projects. Communicate findings from the CRE project. Continue monitoring surveys at Ballona Wetlands. .

### ***Status:***

Ongoing

---

## **Task D – Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation**

### ***Summary:***

**General** – Continued to follow up with congressional and senate staff after the Spring visit and coordinated with other NEPs regarding federal budget. Continued to work with state legislative staff to monitor pending legislation that could assist with funding the SMBRC. Continued ongoing monitoring of new/introduced state legislative efforts for potential funding and policy issues relevant to the SMBRC.

**Financial Strategy Development** –Finalized the member annual contribution model for increasing the SMBRF’s cash reserve. Began outreach to GB member organizations for soliciting annual contribution and received contributions from several watershed cities.

### **Grant Applications**

Applied for and received a grant from Sea Grant for California halibut reproductivity study.

### ***Deliverables:***

***N/A***

### **Next Steps:**

Continue working with congressional staff to secure NEP funding. Continue to solicit member contribution and seek public and private funding opportunities.

### **Status:**

Ongoing

---

## **Task E – Facilitate and implement ecosystem-based protection, restoration, and management of the Bay’s marine habitats and resources**

### **Summary:**

**MPA Outreach** - Met with representatives of the West Coast Governors Agreement, California Ocean Protection Council, California Ocean Science Trust, California Department of Fish and Game, Resource Law Group and numerous NGOs from around the state to discuss progress to date on MPA monitoring and outreach. Our effort conducting aerial overflights was featured at this meeting. Met with the head of the Marine Region for the Department of Fish and Game to discuss coordinated enforcement activities between DFG and SMBRC both in the application of trends borne out of our dataset and in the near term by working with game wardens to locate and identify non-compliance with the MPAs.

**Socio Economic Research related to Marine Spatial Planning** - Conducted twice monthly flights of the mainland coast of southern California to accurately map the location, type and activity of vessels operating in state waters, (out to three miles). These data will eventually inform resource managers tasked with adaptive management of a network of MPAs as to responses in boating resulting from the establishment of that network.

**Kelp Restoration** - Worked to secure funding, permits and coordinate with project partners. Conducted baseline monitoring associated with the rocky reefs to be restored off of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Submitted a manuscript for publication to Ecological Applications regarding the modeled fishing benefits of kelp restoration.

**360 Fisheries** - Policy and legal research for Market Innovation grant is 60% complete, just beginning field work. Appointed to Spiny Lobster Advisory Committee; attended 2 of 2 meetings. Received grant from USC Sea Grant for testing non-lethal method of determining sex of California halibut in non-spawning condition; trained students; began field work. Participated in Lobster Tagging Study related to MPA Monitoring.

**EBM Network** - Attending monthly phone meetings with Network members.

**Abalone Research-** Collected over 140 tissue samples from San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles Counties and Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands with numerous partners. These tissue samples are being used to determine population level relatedness among green abalone (*Halitotis fulgens*) to inform restoration efforts to aid in their recovery. Contributed to the development of an in situ method for RLP detection, RLP is the causative agent for withering syndrome which impacted several species of abalone in southern California in the 1990's and early 2000's.

***Deliverables:***

N/A

***Next Steps:***

Continue to conduct outreach for MPAs. Continue to carry out the rocky reef restoration project. Continue to carry out aerial monitoring. Continue to develop abalone recovery project. Continue seeking funds for halibut study.

***Status:***

In Progress

---

**Task F – Inter-agency coordination, and involvement**

***Summary:***

**Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program:**

Staff attended monthly J5-J6 meetings to coordinate 2012-2013 outreach activities. Other promotion, planning, and program coordination all continued during this reporting period. Promotion activities included daily Facebook and Twitter posts, purchasing a sponsored ad on Facebook, and planning meetings with participating cities to coordinate outreach events throughout the year. Meetings begin in November. Staff worked with graphic designer to finalize logo, certificate, and window decal.

**South Bay Outreach:** Continued participation at monthly meetings of Jurisdictional Group 5&6 (South Bay cities, LA County, CalTrans).

**Regional Sediment Management Strategic Plan:** Participated in the Advisory Working Group to give input on the Regional Sediment Management Strategic Plan being developed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Reviewed and provided written comments on the draft sediment management plan. Coordinated with State Coastal Conservancy to submit comments and began discussions to plan a pilot project with LACFCD on sediment sluicing.

**Other** - Continued work with Southern California Wetland Recovery Project Wetland Managers Group, Integrated Wetlands Regional Assessment Program, Loyola Marymount University Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee, Friends of Ballona Wetlands Science and Restoration Committee, and multiple local Universities.

Continued work with multi-agency partnership to develop and coordinate the Ballona Wetlands restoration planning efforts, including the Department of Fish and Game, SCC, Army Corps, LA County Flood Control District, MRCA, and others.

Participated on state-wide aquatic invasive species task force, Malibu Creek Watershed Technical Advisory Committee, Rindge Dam Technical Advisory Committee, the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Beach Task Force, the State Water Resources Control Board Biological Objective Stakeholder Group.

Continued to serve as technical advisor on Resource Agency's state-wide Urban Greening and River Parkways grant programs. Reviewed application, attended meetings in Sacramento, and visited potential project sites throughout the state.

***Deliverables:***

N/A

***Next Steps:***

Continue promotion and expansion of the restaurant program. Continue participation on relevant stakeholder and technical advisory groups.

***Status:***

Ongoing

---

**Task G – Continue BRP implementation tracking, assessment, and reporting**

***Summary:***

**BRP Implementation Progress Tracking** - Completed development of an integrated, customized Access database, with searching and report generating functions that can be used to track progress on all objectives and milestones of the BRP.

**Comprehensive Monitoring and State of the Bay Report** – Continued working with SMBRC TAC to finalize a framework for assessing habitat health to be used in the 2015 State of the Bay Report. In collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, completed and presented at the Regional Board meeting a Comprehensive Monitoring Program Implementation Progress Report.

Continue to work with Pepperdine University researchers to discuss development of a health index for sandy intertidal habitat. Continue to help facilitate and participate in the meetings of the Beach Metrics Group and made progress in developing a general framework for the beach index.

**Bond-Funded Project Effectiveness Monitoring Framework**- Finalized a framework for monitoring projects funded under Prop 84 to ensure collection of meaningful and useful monitoring data.

**Wetland habitat valuation**- Revising and finalizing draft literature review of research on the value of vegetated coastal marsh in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat.

***Deliverables:***

N/A

***Next Steps:***

Begin entering information to the BRP progress tracking system. Continue working on monitoring framework and possible indicator/index development. Hold workshops to get



outside feedback on draft framework for habitat health assessment. Finalize literature review and write recommendations. Apply framework for monitoring to a Prop 84 funded project. Consider participating in Bight '13.

**Status:**

Ongoing

---

## **Task H – Implement the SMBRC outreach strategy**

### **Summary:**

#### **Ballona Wetlands Outreach -**

The outreach program participated in at least one local Farmer's Market per month. Continued to recruit local students for internships and volunteering and engage/inform the public about the restoration process. An outreach report has been developed documenting the efforts made by SMBRF to educate and involve the public.

Coordination and facilitation was provided to MRCA for their Junior Rangers: Wetland Unit. Additional tours of the Ballona Wetlands were provided to elected officials, high school student classes, Girl Scouts, members of the public, and University classes.

Continued bi-monthly Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project and Watershed e-newsletter.

**Malibu Lagoon restoration outreach** – Wrote and distributed progress updates via mailing lists and websites; conducted tours of construction site for local agency and elected officials; provided verbal updates to Governing Board members at meetings and in phone calls.

**Coastal Cleanup Day** - Led and coordinated all aspects of the event at the Marina del Rey in-water cleanup site including planning, soliciting donations, social marketing campaign, organization, and implementation. 158 volunteers collected **158 pounds of trash and 33 pounds of recyclables**. SMBRF raised \$20,222.05 in in-kind services and donations to support the event.

**Urban Coast** – Held meeting of the Advisory Board. Based on input from Advisory Board members, developed an outline and began soliciting article submissions for Volume 4, Issue 1 of the journal.

**Baywire** – Developed and distributed the BayWire newsletter to stakeholders following each Governing Board meeting.

#### **Conference Presentations –**

Presented at several regional and statewide scientific conferences, including three presentations (invited speakers) at the Southern California Academy of Sciences, one presentation at the California Estuarine Research Society, one at the Headwaters to Ocean conference, and one at the Southern California Kelp Monitoring Symposium. Also, as a member of the State Clean Beach Task Force, assisted the State Water Board in planning a Beach Science Symposium to be held in late November.

Ten articles were published in local newspapers facilitated by SMBRF staff.

***Deliverables:***

BayWire

***Next Steps:***

Continue publication of BayWire and Urban Coast Journal on regular basis, as well as other outreach described above. Prepare a public symposium on climate change impacts to urban wetlands for spring 2013.

***Status:***

Ongoing

---

**Task I – Oversee the PIE mini-grant program**

***Summary:***

Initiation of new round of PIE program is contingent on funding availability. Continued to solicit additional funding sources and promote the program in conjunction with other programs and the implementation of the Commission's overall financing strategy.

***Next Steps:***

Continue to pursue other means of funding for additional, future rounds of PIE projects.

***Status:***

On hold

---

**Task J – Participate in the PV Shelf Institutional Controls Program.**

***Summary:***

**FCEC Participation** - Continued to participate in the conference calls of the message group and provide feedback on FCEC's existing and new outreach projects. Participated in EPA/FCEC annual strategic planning meeting.

**PV Shelf Superfund Investigation** – Continued to assist FCEC in evaluating result of the fish consumption study.

***Deliverables:***

N/A

***Next Steps:***

Continue to participate and assist in FCEC and PV Shelf activities.

***Status:***

On-going

## **Task K – Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program**

### **Summary:**

**Boating Events** - Participated in eleven boating events to conduct face to face outreach and education: Bay Club Marina Dockwalker Training, Safe Boating Expo, MarinaFest, Sea Fair, Dana Point Boat Show, California Yacht Marina, Wilmington BBQ, Two Harbor Opening Day, Lake Elsinore Launch Ramp Opening Ceremony, Los Alamitos West Marine outreach event, Mariner's Bay Boater Appreciation Day, California Yacht Marina Cabrillo BBQ, Marina del Rey Marina BBQ, Villa del Mar Marina Boater Day, and Coastal Cleanup Day.

At the events, staff collected 570 boater surveys, signed up 299 new Changing Tide subscribers, registered 116 boaters for Honey Pot Day, distributed 520 Southern California Boater's Guide, gathered a total of \$10,252 in in-kind and cash match from volunteers working at the boating events and donated booth expenses from Southern California Marine Association, Dana Point Harbor, and Fred Hall.

**Changing Tide** - Produced Spring and Summer newsletters, distributed 3,000 newsletters to the Southern California boating community and another 600 to email subscribers (6,684 newsletters are distributed statewide).

**Southern California Boater's Guide** - Staff finalized updates to the Southern California Boater's Guide, 4th Edition and approved printing of 4,000 Guides.

**Honey Pot Day** - Launched the new website for Honey Pot Day. Staff gave presentations at 10 Honey Pot Day events at various marina's throughout Marina del Rey, King Harbor, Port of Los Angeles, and Long Beach Harbor. At these events, staff outreached to a total of 300 boaters about the program.

**Pumpout Monitoring** - Conducted quarterly monitoring of 66 public sewage pumpout facilities in Southern California.

**Program management and specialized outreach** - The first annual planning meeting for the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Education Program was held June 14 and 15 for the purpose of discussing the statewide outreach and education effort, goals and objectives of the CVA Education Program, roles of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration and San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and potential for increasing program recognition. Staff participated in the San Francisco Estuary Partnership Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Oakland.

### **Deliverables:**

N/A

### **Next Steps:**

Continue outreach and education. Develop and implement pilot Honey Pot Day Unlimited program. Create 2014 Clean Vessel Act Grant work plan.

### **Status:**

Ongoing

---

## **Task L – Conduct general GB support, organizational management and reporting activities**

### ***Summary:***

**General** – Continued with basic HR and accounting tasks. Completed the final program and financial reports for the EPA-NEP grants between 2006 and 2012.

Prepared agenda and organized staff reports for Executive Committee and Governing Board meetings. Responded to GB/EC member inquiries and issues.

Coordinated Foundation board meetings, including agenda preparation, staff report organization, et al.

Advertised and conducted interview for the new Communication Specialist position.

Continue to respond to many public record requests regarding the governing and organization structure, as well as operating procedures of the SMBRC. Conducted historical document search and compilation in response to the public record requests. Also responded to state and local agency inquiries regarding SMBRC activities, governing board and Watershed Council issues, and status of governing board membership.

**NEP Activities** – Hosted site visit by Bernice Smith, Chief of the Coastal Management Branch, OWOW, EPA HQ. Participated in quarterly conference calls with EPA management and ANEP executive committee. Contributed information to the NEP survey of accomplishments for the Clean Water Act core programs. Completed and submitted on time the NEPORT report on leveraged funds and habitat acreage.

**TAC and MRAC** – Held 2 TAC meetings and 3 MRAC meetings. Began search for 3 more TAC members. Brought in 2 new Ad-Hoc MRAC members to assist with wetland habitat value literature review and white paper described under Task G.

### ***Deliverables:***

Governing Board, Executive Committee, Foundation Board of Directors, TAC/MRAC agenda Packages.

### ***Next Steps:***

Continue management and reporting activities. Continue providing staff support for GB, EC, TAC and MRAC. Shelley consider chairing the ANEP board of directors in 2013.

### ***Status:***

Ongoing